THE

Theatrical Observer;

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 944 *Wednesday, Dec.* 8, 1824. *Price* 1*d.*

Drury Lane Theatre.

Der Freschutz was represented here again last night, and to a considerable audience, who appeared much gratified with the whole performance. This version is certainly remarkably distinguished from that of the English Opera-House and Covent Garden—it is a more moral piece; rendered so by the stronger marking of the influence of the good and evil spirit, than in the rival translations. The music is, now, executed as well as could be desired, and the whole went off with eclat.—The Overture was encored. It is surprising what a number of persons still flock to the Theatres whenever this drama is performed: and which shews what vast resources our great Theatres possess in the mass of the standing population of this immense city; and in its casual visitors, when powerfully attracted.

Hafed the Gheber, followed, and had many admirers of its scenery, &c.

Covent Garden Theatre.

The newly revived Comedy of *A Woman never Lost*, was again performed last night to a numerous audience. We can always ascertain the state of this house about half-past six o'clock, just about the opening of the doors, by the stentorian exertions of Mr. Donaldson, the superintendant general of the Police Establishment of this Theatre, who eternally vociferates to the mass of expectants of good places, "Take care of your pockets, Ladies and Gentlemen!" which is rendered particularly necessary when the doors are closely besieged by the curious. The Public and the Managers are much indebted to this active gentleman—we never knew any officer take more care of us and our property than he does, and who, thereby, adds to the comfort of our entrance to the Theatre. Having done this justice to Mr. Donaldson, we proceed to Mr. Young, Mr. C. Kemble, Mr. Cooper Miss Chester, and Miss Lacy, who really contrived to add to the gratification we had previously felt from the worthy Donaldson's exertions. The Comedy altogether gave much pleasure, and *The Frozen Lake* terminated the amusements very satisfactorily.

Miss Isabella Paton.—We are not a little surprised to see at Drury Lane, that this young lady is not brought forward in some of those parts which she performed last season with so much success, or in other characters of a similar nature. It is an ungracious task to

make comparisons; but certainly the late thin houses, when other Theatres are crowded, might suggest the propriety of affording a fair opportunity to rising talent of decided excellence, to emulate others in the same line.

Mr. Poole and Mr. Elliston.—The origin of the *fracas* between these gentlemen, we understand, to have been the discontinuance of Mr. Poole's free admission to Drury Lane Theatre, by Mr. Elliston, in consequence of some observations contained in the Preface to "*Married and Single*," a piece which Mr. P. brought out at the Haymarket last season. Many of our readers may be aware that in this said Preface he charged the Lessee with having partly accepted the piece in question, and after having read and made use of it, as Mr. P. imagined, by supplying some author on the establishment with the leading ideas for the purpose of being manufactured into a *cheaper*, if not a better article, then Mr. P.'s was returned. It is, of course, impossible for us to say how far this statement may be correct, but we are not aware that any formal contradiction of it has been put forth by Mr. Elliston—he, however, thought proper to evince his hostility to the author by withdrawing his admission, as we have stated. As far as the parties immediately at issue are concerned, we apprehend it is a matter of little importance to the public, "whether Roderigo kill Cassio, or Cassio kill Roderigo,"—but it seems to us that, the question is involved in the dispute which concerns, at least, all who are, or may be in the situation of Mr. Poole. It has always been understood that a successful writer for either theatre is entitled, in addition to the sum which he may receive for his handicraft, to a personal admission to the theatre at all times and seasons, so long as the establishment may continue in the same interest. This is undoubtedly a privilege of some value, and is invariably taken into consideration by the Managers—allowance being made for it in the remuneration which they make to authors. If, however, it is to be withdrawn at the will or caprice of a Manager, it can no longer be considered a *privilege*, but as a mere personal *favor*, which may be either granted or withheld at his option.

Theatrical Duel.—The Manager of the New York Theatre, well known in the theatrical world from his liberality, has, we understand, been lately in imminent peril of losing his life from the effect of a hostile rencontre. Mr. I——, it will be remembered, left this country in the spring of the present year, with a considerable addition of talent to his company. The cause which led to the meeting is said to be an affair of a delicate nature, which took place in New York previously to his departure for England; but an opportunity of meeting the offending party, it seems, did not offer until his return. Mr. P— received his adversary's shot in the thigh, and for some days his life was considered in a precarious state; but by the last accounts, we are happy to learn, he was recovering.—*British Press.*

Printed & Published by E. Thomas, Denmark-court, Exeter-'change, Strand.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening the Tragedy of

Venice Preserved.

Duke of Venice, Mr ATKINS,
Priuli, Mr EGERTON, Bedamar, Mr CONNOR,
Jaffier, Mr. C. KEMBLE,
Elliott, Mr HORREBOW, Mezzana, Mr GEORGE
Pierre, Mr YOUNG,
Renault, Mr CHAPMAN, Theodore, Mr J. Cooper,
Spinosa, Mr CLAREMONT, Officer, Mr LEY,
Durand, Mr Grant, Captain of the Guard, Mr Mears.
Belvidera, Mrs SLOMAN,
Ladies, Mesdames Vedy and Bates.

To conclude with the Melo Drama of

The Blind Boy.

Stanislaus, Mr CHAPMAN,
Edmund, (the Blind Boy,) Mrs CHATTERLEY,
Oberto, Mr FAWCETT,
Rodolph, Mr CONNOR, Starow, Mr HORREBOW,
Molino, Mr MEADOWS,
Kalig, Mr FARLEY,
High Priest, Mr LOUIS, Guard, Mr NORRIS.
Elvina, Miss LOVE.

To-morrow, Der Freischutz, with Clari.

EXHIBITIONS.

DIORAMA, Regent's Park, Two New Views—Charters Cathedral, and Brest Harbour—Open Daily from Ten till Four o'Clock.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, Cobb's Opera of The

Siege of Belgrade.

Col. Cohenberg, Mr WALLACK,
Ismael. Mr G. SMITH, Yuseph, Mr GATTIE,
The Seraskier, Mr SAPIO, Anselm, Mr BEDFORD,
Michael, Mr HUGHES, Leopold, Mr HARLEY,
Peter, Mr FITZWILLIAM.
Katherine, Miss GRADDON, Ghita, Miss POVEY,
Fatima, Miss CARR.
Lilla, Miss STEPHENS.

Songs, &c. sung in the Opera.

Act I.

Opening Chorus, Wave our Prophet's fam'd Standard of glory on high.
Song—Lost, distressed.....Lilla.
Air—The Rose and Lily their beauties combining.....Seraskier
Song—The Sapling Oak.....Anselm
Duet—How the deuce came I to like you?.....Peter and Ghita
Song—All will hail the joyous day, G
Song—Blyth as the hours of May. L.
Trio—Seize him.
Duet—When thy Bosom...Seras. & L
Finale—So kindly condescending.

Act II.

Air—Tell me, my heart....Katherine
Song—My heart with love is beating .....Seraskier
Duet—Of plighted faith so truly kept .....Seraskier and Katherine
Air—Confusion! thus defeated...Ser.
Ballad .....Lilla
Sestetto—Night thus from me concealing the form of her I love.
Song—How few know how to value life.....Peter
Air—What can mean that thoughtful brow.....Lilla
Serenade—Lilla, come down to me...S.
Song—Soldier's Victory.....Ismael
Finale—Now Victory has like a mistress kind, put an end to allour quarrels

Act III.

Song—When in disgrace....Katherine
Song—Should he upbraid.....Lilla
Duet—Tho' you think by this to vex me.....Leopold and Lilla
Song—Love and honour now conspire.....Seraskier
Finale—Loud let the Song of Triumph rise.

After which, (9th time) a new Afterpiece, called

Hafed the Gheber.

The Principal Characters by

Mr ARCHER, Mr WALLACK, Mr TERRY,
Mr T. BLANCHARD, Mr COMER,
Mr YARNOLD, Mr FOSTER, Mr HOWELL,
Mr HARLEY, Mr G. SMITH, Mr FENTON,
Mrs W. WEST. & Mrs WAYLETT.

To-morrow, Der Freischutz, with Hafed the Gheber.